

On SATURDAY, the 21st of JULY next, will be published, Price *Sixpence*, with a beautiful emblematical Frontispiece, designed by WALE, and engraved by GRIGNION, and three Sheets of Letter-Press; the First Number of a NEW WORK, to be published Weekly, and completed in FORTY Sixpenny Numbers, entitled,

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# BIOGRAPHICAL HISTORY

O F

# P A T R I O T S:

O R T H E

## L I V E S and C H A R A C T E R S

Of such WORTHIES, of every Age and Country, as have distinguished themselves in establishing or extending the *Natural Rights* and *Civil Liberties* of Mankind, and in opposing the Usurpations of Tyranny:

I N C L U D I N G

Several interesting Lives from the *German*, *French*, and *Italian* Languages, which were never before translated into *English*:

Digested into Chronological Order from the earliest to the present Times.

By ROWLAND HARRIES, L. L. D.

A N D

LAUNCELOT BURKE, of the Temple, Esq;

With an A P P E N D I X,

Containing a General History of the ORIGIN and PROGRESS of the important CONTESTS, now subsisting in *Great-Britain* and her Colonies.

By a Celebrated FEMALE PEN.

Embellished with near EIGHTY HEADS of illustrious Persons, Ancient and Modern; taken from original Pictures, Busts, and Medals, elegantly engraved.

## C O N D I T I O N S.

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| I. This Work shall be printed in Octavo, on a new Letter, and fine Paper.   | IV. The Whole shall be completed in FORTY Numbers, making four Volumes in Octavo; containing a copious Index and List of Subscribers Names. |
| II. Three Sheets of Letter-Press, besides Copper-Plates, shall be delivered Weekly, stitched in blue Paper, Price <i>Sixpence</i> each. | V. The first Number shall be published on Saturday JULY 21, and the following continued without Intermission, until completed.              |
| III. Upwards of Seventy Heads of illustrious Persons shall be given GRATIS, in the Course of the Work, all very elegantly engraved.     | VI. The first and second Numbers may be returned if not approved of.  |

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LONDON: Printed for RICHARDSON and URQUHART, under the ROYAL-EXCHANGE; and T. EVANS, in PATER-NOSTER ROW.

## To the P U B L I C.

**T**HE design of the following work is, to collect from the best authorities the histories of such personages as have, in every period, contributed by their wisdom or valour to secure or extend the natural rights of mankind. HISTORY, *rich with the spoils of time, has unrolled her ample page*, and held out to our view their noble struggles for freedom, their displays of virtue, and the shocking extremities of vice and profligacy, which they had courage to oppose. By their efforts we see, that in proportion as the rights of humanity are ascertained, and the principles of freedom diffused in government, the happiness of each individual is promoted; the turbulent and rapacious are effectually restrained, and the destructive consequences of ignorance and disorder prevented. Many of these great men died in the contest, pleased in leaving to posterity an happiness acquired by their own private calamities.

The lives of painters, poets, philosophers, and religious reformers, have been severally collected; even the stage has not been overlooked. We have seen an industrious compilation, containing the lives of the most considerable actors, and dramatic writers. It is therefore surprizing, that the general history of the world has not yet been resorted to, in order to do justice to the memories of those great men, who most richly deserve our admiration; as they have stood forth in a cause, in which all mankind are equally interested.

Can there be a portion gleaned from the extensive fields of history, so entertaining, instructive, or important, as recording the actions of those distinguished few, that have displayed *true* dignity of mind; unseduced by the false glare of ambition, or the prevailing views of self interest? Men, who have sacrificed their ease and wealth, and met pain, oppression, torture, and banishment; men who have been torn from the dearest ties of friendship and of blood, and suffered even death itself, in support of the great interests of humanity.

If a man wishes to entertain a favourable opinion of human nature, let him not accompany the hero wading through fields of slaughter, where every delicate feeling suffers in the general carnage. Let him not accompany the statesman through all the intricacies of the cabinet, where wisdom, fortitude, eloquence, dignity of character, and the indispensable obligations of virtue, are too frequently prostituted to the destructive views of state-policy. Neither let him visit men of science in their reclusive employments, where he will often see pride and personal resentment guide the pen, which a disinterested love of truth alone should have directed. Let him contemplate rather those superior spirits, who have handed down to the latest ages the knowledge and possession of *that* which is the foundation of all happiness—the permanent establishment of the freedom he enjoys.

Nor are the historical events, which such a work relates, less interesting and important, than the characters are illustrious. The most eventful periods of time are most favourable to the growth and expansion of public spirit; and the wisdom which conducts the secrets of the cabinet, as well as the intrepidity which triumphs in the operations of the field, are alike the objects of inquiry.

The numerous and exemplary catalogue of Patriots, whose fortitude, integrity, and wisdom, the annals of our own country have recorded; and the memorable stand for freedom which has distinguished this nation in times of extremity; recommend very much such a work at the present juncture. To impress on the age the disinterested virtues of our great progenitors, is a debt we owe their memories; they deserve our praise at least, though we may be too degenerate to rise to imitation.

Thus far the authors have indulged the warmth of their feelings, in speaking on a subject to which it were a disgrace to be indifferent. They have been long employed in forming the plan; and, willing to do it all the justice in their power, they have jointly engaged in the execution. The whole of the copy is now prepared for the press, and will be comprised in Four Volumes Octavo; which were first designed to have been published complete at once: but the conductors, being willing to solicit the support and assistance of every learned, and ingenious man, who wishes well to the cause of liberty, and the happiness of mankind, have chosen to make this publication weekly, in hopes of enriching their own labours by casual assistance, and more extensive information; which shall be carefully blended with the Manuscripts as the sheets are printed off for publication.

